

Are You Ready?

Text: "Then will appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven."

Triviagame How many remember Sat. nite and program Old Barn Dance.

1st? Uncle Ezra.

Hoosier Hopshots, Are You Ready Hezzie?

Are You Ready, names.

Ready for what? (Illustration of barber) #1

Christ is coming sure as today as tomorrow, no one knows when or where.

Must be prepared, (Illust of Pa. Dutch wife) #2

Jesus referred to different preparedness, 24th Matthew - ~~Scripture~~ vs. 3

1 vs 6, wars, etc never on such a large scale earthquakes, Phila, Hawaii, Nicaragua

2 Famine, Russia, India, Our Country?

3 Mississippi flood crops, rotting etc.

Hail waterloo Iowa 1 ft. deep

Arizona, blooseoms and fruit.

California only 1/3 tomatoes planted in April

Our flood here,

all this is but the beginning

4 vs 10 many fall away, has happened hasn't it?

5 England last fall churches dead almost buried.

"I because wickedness is multiplied men will grow cold"

Clergymen not concerned because people walking street say believe in God.

Baptist boys and girls in England from Lynchburg

200 people converted.

6 vs 14 spread of gospel fantastic. Isn't this a fulfillment?

7 vs 23-27, Also a fulfillment in our age. look at false religions sprung up.

8 vs 29, moon and sun darkened, during flood.

pictures of Jesus in different ~~areas~~ AREAS (Illustration of king and jester)

9 Snapp fingers, 2 3 seconds people dying unheaved.

CRUSADE FOR CHRIST, DUNCANNON

CHRIST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 1973

"Revive Thy work O Lord! And make Thy servants bold;
Convict of sin, and work once more as in the days of old.

Revive Thy work O Lord, come now and answer prayer;
O come in Holy Spirit power, and save men everywhere."

Oswald J. Smith

The P.T.P. Singers

Announcements

Offering

Solo - Carol Rissinger

Hymns 152, 77

The Evening Message: Dr. Warren Sickman

Hymn 233

Benediction

We thank everyone who helped to make this service possible. We thank God for any and all who may have been helped and we pray that the love of Christ may endure in each and every heart. Please plan to attend the remaining services and bring your friends and neighbors.

2
clock ticks off death of unsaved.

5 Story of Paul and Silas Acts 16 *WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED.*
They spoke the word of the Lord.

W i spoken not only tonight but all week

7 ARE YOU READY? Are You Ready? — #3
(Illustration the King Is Coming)

If you can say without reservations if die tonight

18 go to be with Jesus, You ready.
If not, if unsure, uncertain, etc, not ready.

Don't put off until later

19 *OLD MAN & PUTTING OFF TIL TO. LATE. #4*
Come forward now during playing of hymn, bow heads
pray.

After prayer, special invitation
then several verses
Benediction.

Call to worship: O give thanks unto the Lord
call upon His name; make known His deeds among
the people.

Call to Confession: The Lord is near to all who
call upon Him; to all who call upon Him in truth.
He fulfills the desire of all who fear Him; He
also hears their cry, and saves them. Let us
pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: Hearken now unto the com-
forting assurance of the grace of God, promised
in the Gospel to all that repent and believe:
if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just
to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all
unrighteousness. Amen.

HATT.

"Are You Ready?"

Text: "Then will appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven."

I would like to ask those who are over 40 a question to see if you can remember a radio program that came on every Saturday evening at 9:00 I believe and was on for one hour. Can you identify it? The Barn Dance, or the National Barn Dance as it was also called. Do you remember the master of ceremonies? Uncle Ezra. Well, do you remember the two fellows who usually played some rather odd sounding instruments and they were named after the midwest state they came from? The Hoosier Hotshots. What did the one fellow always say to the other one before they began to play? Are you ready Hezzie.

Well, I'm asking you tonight, "Are You Ready," Charles and George, Harry, Tom, Betty, Edna, Mary and so on? Are You Ready? Ready for what? Well, to be ready means we must be prepared. It is like the Pennsylvania Dutch wife who was told by the doctor that her ailing husband was going to die very shortly, so she could let him do whatever he wanted.

(Illustration of Pa. Dutch Wife, pg. 338, Anecdotes For All Occasions)

~~Max~~ This wife was prepared for what was to come later, but in a different sense from what I am referring to. Jesus referred to a preparedness and let me read you portions of this. It is found in the 24th chapter of Matthe if you care to follow along.

vs 6, wars and rumours of wars. What have we seen in the past 25 Or 30 yrs? Fightings and wars all over the world. World War II, the Korean War, India and Pakistan. Israel and the Arab nations. The African nations. Red China and the Nationalist Chinese, and we have supposedly ended, the most costly and longest war we have ever been involved in, in Southeast Asia.

There are those who would tell us that this has been repeated down through these past 19 centuries. But never on a scale such as this, if you care to check.

And Jesus said there would be famines and earthquakes in ^{various} ~~many~~ places, and all this is but the beginning of the sufferings. There was a horrible earthquake in Nicaragua last year. This year Hawaii had a tremor. There was an earthquake in Philadelphia, and there have been many others in places that have never had them before.

Russia was unable to feed the people because their crops were poor and so they bought wheat from the United States. India is unable to feed her people almost every year and millions starve and die. In our own land for the first time in its history that horrible word famine is being bandied about. Last fall and early winter the corn could not be harvested in the Mid-West because there was so much rain, and so it stood all winter and ~~it~~ rotted. The mighty Mississippi River has overflowed its banks in places where it has never flooded to the knowledge of man. Trappers along that river who have kept records for over 200 years, have never recorded flooding April 13th highest for 35 yrs. from the river. In Tennessee there will be no cotton this year, because of the flood and I believe it is soy beans that will not be grown there as well. On April 30 there was hail in Waterloo Iowa and it accumulated to a depth of 1 foot. thousands of cattle have died and starved, because of the heavy snows and blizzards in the West. In Arizona there were blossoms and fruit on Calif. only 1/2 of tomatoes could be ^{the same} planted. trees in April. Also in April in Ju t last year we had the very horrible flood that messed up quite a bit of property in this area. Now are all of these things just flukes of nature or are they mere coincidences? I think they are neither. I believe they are the hand of God reaching out into this evil and wicked world and beginning to draw things to a close. And this is what Jesus said, "all this is but the beginning of the sufferings."

vs. 10, And many shall fall away. Hasn't this happened all across the length and breadth of this land, and throughout the world? In England last fall my wife and I saw a church that is all but dead and buried. All they need to do is to hold the funeral and lock the church doors and it will be settled. We saw there what Jesus was saying, "And because wickedness is multiplied, most mens love will grow cold." The clergymen are not concerned with the decline of church attendance and membership. After all a goodly portion of the people walking the streets of London in a recent poll, profess a belief in God. Just because they do not go to church, doesn't mean anything. But does it? Isn't it a fact that we need to worship God, and we need the church to continue to point people toward Christ?

I just read with interest an article about some Baptist students from Lynchburg Virginia, who were in England for a visit, to examine the church and more particularly the Church School movement, which by the way is also dead. They were able to witness on the streets to people and they came home and talked of their experiences. They discovered that over 200 people accepted Christ because of these students. If this isn't a sign that people are still hungry for spiritual food, I don't know what is.

vs. 14, the spread of the Gospel in the past several years has been fantastic. There are Bibles and tracts being printed right now in Russian and Chinese to be smuggled into those two countries for those who hunger for the Word. The Gospel has been preached and the Bible has been taught to almost all parts of the world. Isn't this a fulfillment of a portion of this prophecy of Jesus?

vs. 23-27, We have also seen the fulfillment of this prophecy in our age. Look at the false religions that have sprung up. Look at the so called Messiahs that have arisen. See the so called charismatic leaders of all of the off-shoot religions and pseudo-religions in our nation as well as the world.

vs. 29, We have seen that the sun has indeed been darkened and the moon has not shown. Did you see the sun last year all during the flood and the

constant rains? Have you seen the sun very much lately, or the moon for that matter? I think that we are seeing the signs of the end.

(Illustration of B. Graham)

vs. 30a, I think we are also seeing this taking place right now in different areas. Here are two pictures taken at different times and at different places, (show the Jesus pictures), one in Alabama in 1971, one in Jerusalem in 1972, and this one from the flood in Pennsylvania. Now are these just someone's idea of a joke? I had one woman when I preached on this subject and shared these pictures with the congregation after the service, tell me she thought they were fakes. She said, "My son was an amateur photographer and he was able to touch up pictures and this is what happened to these pictures. Now if you choose to believe this then be my guest, but as for me, I believe that here is actual physical evidence of My Saviour showing Himself to me that it will not be too long until He intervenes in this world and brings it all to a screeching halt.

vs. 30b, Here we read of the final consummation when the elect will go to be with the Lord. I think that we can speculate about all the final events, and we can make comparisons of what Paul states and the other Apostles, but ~~what~~ what is more important is that we are either ready or not.

(Illustration of King and court jester)

We are going to take a journey some day and we will be facing our Maker. Will we go unprepared, or will we be ready? We cannot say that we will wait until we are ready to die, because we may not live through this night. We may go at anytime. Some people feel that they will be dead before the coming of Christ again, but is this an excuse to let salvation slip by us? Whether we die before the second Coming, or whether we are physically around to see it and be involved in it is immaterial. ~~What is more important~~ We should be ready for either event.

But equally important is that we must share this Good News with others.

(Snap fingers, as a n exercise with me. Do you know what you have been

doing? You have been keeping time with the clock of death that ticks off the death of the unsaved). Each time we snap our fingers, it takes only 2 or 3 seconds, but each time we do, someone, somewhere, throughout the world has passed away, without being saved. Horrible isn't it, to contemplate the death of someone who is not prepared to face God?

This is the message that God has laid upon my heart to bring to you, that we can have salvation, and have it today. Not just for the time when we are to die, but for all time, now until that day.

Remember the story of Paul and Silas, how although they were cast in prison, they were chained to the floor of their cell by their hands and their feet so they could not get away. Remember how they sang hymns like birds in ~~strong~~ iron cage, and how they prayed. But remember also how suddenly there was a violent earthquake and the door of their prison was thrown open and their chains were broken and they found themselves free men. Did they flee? Did they say, "Come on, let's get out of here and save our necks? No, they stayed, and they were able to witness to the power of Jesus Christ, to a frightened man, the jailor. ~~He came to their cell with a torch, expecting to find them gone~~ He asked, "what must I do to be saved?" And they answered, "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved, you and your house." And he was baptized and accepted Christ.

But the secret is, "They spoke the word of the Lord, to him." In other words they witnessed to him even from the filthy, rotten evil smelling place of imprisonment. They told him of God's love for him a miserable sinner.

You have heard the word of the Lord, spoken to you not only tonight, but every night this week. Tonight we wrap up these services and you will again have the opportunity to do something about Christ in your life once again. So I ask you, "ARE YOU READY?" "ARE YOU READY for either the coming of Jesus Christ into this world for the second time, or for your departure from it through death? If you can state without

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.